Changes in Fixation of Power Tariffs

*107. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Task Force (NTF) on power has decided on major changes relating to fixation of tariffs for thermal power plants as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 12th November, 1996

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action the Ministry of Power has taken on the recommendations made by the NTF, till date?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) The National Task Force (NTF) was constituted by the Government of India in February, 1995 in order to oversee the implementation of the recommendations made in pursuance of a study on bulk power and transmission tariffs.

The NTF is headed by Chairman, CEA and includes, *inter alia*, the Chairmen of the Regional Electricity Boards. The NTF has accepted recommendations related to adoption of "Availability" based generation tariff in place of the existing Plant Load Factor (PLF) based tariff. The Central Electricity Authority will formulate the parameters for determining the plant availability factor for thermal power stations. The Regional Task Force/Regional Electricity Boards would, in their respective regions, take necessary steps to enable the switch over to the new tariff regime. The dates for switch over to the new tariff regime, based on Plant Availability Factor as determined by CEA, would be notified by the Government of India.

Private Power Projects

*108. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private power projects approved by Government upto March, 1996;

(b) whether a captive power plants scheme has been formulated to generate 25,000 Megawatts power in the private sector in order to meet the acute shortage of power in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof in regard to setting up of such plants pertaining to Thermal Power, Diesel Power, Hydel Power and Atomic Power in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) As on 31st March, 1996, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had accorded techno-economic clearance to 15 proposals for setting up power projects in the private sector.

(b) and (c) A policy has been framed which *inter-alia* encourages the setting up of captive power plants of any size and using any fuel. State Government have been requested to create an institutional mechanism which allows such units an easy and automatic entry, by quickly clearing captive power applications and giving such units a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units.

Power Cuts in the States

*109. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in which power cut for domestic and industrial sectors is in force at present togetherwith the quantum thereof;